

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The availability of effective antibiotics over  
3 the last 6 decades has transformed bacterial infections from  
4 life-threatening scourges to easily treatable conditions; and

5 WHEREAS, The use and misuse of antibiotics has been shown  
6 to promote the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; and

7 WHEREAS, Infections caused by resistant bacteria are more  
8 difficult or impossible to treat; resistance also increases  
9 the rate at which such bacteria are transmitted to humans;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The risk for contracting an antibiotic-resistant  
12 infection is highest for children, the elderly, hospital  
13 patients, transplant recipients, people undergoing  
14 chemotherapy, HIV positive individuals, and others whose  
15 immune systems may be depressed; and

16 WHEREAS, Antibiotic-resistant bacteria costs the United  
17 States at least \$4 billion to \$5 billion annually, according  
18 to a recent article published by the Institute of Medicine;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization, the American  
21 Public Health Association, the Institute of Medicine of the  
22 National Academy of Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control  
23 and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA),  
24 and other medical and public health authorities acknowledge  
25 that antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens constitute an  
26 increasingly grave public health crisis; and

27 WHEREAS, According to the Union of Concerned Scientists  
28 of Cambridge, Massachusetts, approximately 10 times more  
29 antibiotics by volume are used in American agriculture than  
30 are used for treating sick humans; an estimated 93%, which  
31 equals 24.5 million pounds, of antibiotics used in

1 agriculture each year are used not to treat sick animals but  
2 rather are given to healthy beef cattle, swine, and poultry  
3 without prescription or veterinary supervision for  
4 non-therapeutic reasons, including growth promotion and  
5 disease prevention; and

6 WHEREAS, The majority of antibiotics used in raising  
7 livestock and poultry, by the same estimates, are identical  
8 or nearly identical to the antibiotics relied on by health  
9 care providers to treat sick people; the effectiveness of  
10 antibiotics used to treat both sick humans and sick animals  
11 is being compromised; and

12 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association opposes the use  
13 of medically important antibiotics in agriculture at  
14 non-therapeutic levels; any delay in reducing agricultural  
15 antibiotic use in the United States will only heighten the  
16 public health risk given that continued unnecessary use of  
17 antibiotics will promote further development of  
18 drug-resistant bacteria; and

19 WHEREAS, The European Union has already restricted the  
20 use of many medically important antibiotics in agriculture  
21 and has continued to raise food animals successfully and  
22 cost-effectively; and

23 WHEREAS, This is a national health issue and it is  
24 appropriate that government action limiting the unnecessary  
25 use of antibiotics in agriculture should be undertaken at the  
26 federal level to create a uniform policy to be applied to all  
27 states; therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
29 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
30 we strongly urge the Food and Drug Administration to  
31 immediately take steps to eliminate the use of medically  
32 important antibiotics at non-therapeutic levels in animal

1 agriculture and aquaculture and to limit all livestock and  
2 poultry antibiotic use to those uses authorized by veterinary  
3 prescription and under veterinary supervision; and be it  
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
6 presented to the Food and Drug Administration and the members  
7 of the Illinois congressional delegation.